

Financing Grad School

UndocuSpartan Student Resources

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Presentation content

- Difference between Grad & Undergrad Financial Aid
- Demystify
 - ▷ Fellowships
 - ▷ Scholarships
 - ▷ Loans
- Resources

Grad vs Undergrad financial aid

- In undergrad, the university funds you
- In grad school, the program funds you
 - ▷ When applying to a program, the FA app may be separate → Personal Statement becomes important
 - ▷ Funds come from department funds
 - ▷ Some programs have private endowment funds
 - ▷ The graduate division provides some funds to the department

Program Costs

- Public schools are more affordable (tuition) but there are also many financial aid opportunities with private schools
- Average cost of a master's program: \$10,000 to \$60,000 (per year)
- Average cost of Medical school: \$32,000-\$52,000 (per year)
- Average cost of law school: \$45,000-\$75,000 (Per year)
- Average cost of a PhD: \$28,000-\$40,000 (per year)

Additional Costs (after Tuition)

- Housing
- Transportation (bus, car, home visits)
- Food
- Personal Expenses
- Books, supplies
- Lab fees, etc.
- Overall cost of living in location (rural vs. city)
- Health insurance
- Exam Fees - (GRE, LSAT, MCAT, GMAT)
- Other expenses (i.e., dependents)

CA Dream Act Application

- [Dream.csac.ca.gov](https://dream.csac.ca.gov)
- Official document indicating your FA need or EFC
- State Universities provide funds to grad students
- Scholarships may require it



The screenshot shows the top portion of the California Student Aid Commission website. At the top left is the logo for CA.GOV and the California Student Aid Commission. To the right is a navigation bar with links for Home, CA.GOV, CSAC.CA.GOV, and Privacy Policy. Below the navigation bar is a large banner featuring a smiling young woman with dark hair, wearing a backpack and holding a pen. The banner text reads: "CALIFORNIA DREAM ACT Apply by March 2". Below this text is a yellow box containing the following text: "The California Dream Act Application allows students interested in attending eligible California Colleges, Universities and Career Education Programs to apply for state financial aid. This application is unrelated to the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program."

Non-resident tuition waiver - AB-540

- Undocumented students must complete the AB-540 non-resident tuition waiver at their grad school institution even if they completed their undergrad degree at that institution
- Make sure the FA office applies it to your package

California Nonresident Tuition Exemption Application
Education Code § 68130.5, as amended, commonly known as AB 540

Please see instructions and general information on the other side.

APPLICATION
I, the undersigned, am applying for the California Nonresident Tuition Exemption at the following college/university, _____ and I declare the following:
(provide name of college/university above)

1.) Check one box only:

I have a current nonimmigrant visa (not including a T or U visa) as defined by federal law.
Nonimmigrants have been admitted to the U.S. on a temporary visa and include, but are not limited to, foreign students (holding F visas) and exchange visitors (holding J visas)

I have a current nonimmigrant T or U visa as defined by federal law.

I do NOT have a current nonimmigrant visa as defined by federal law.
This includes, among others, U.S. citizens, permanent residents, DACA recipients, and students on a current or valid immigration status.

2.) Select all items that apply to you from each column:

<p>Column A</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have 3 years of attendance at a California high school.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have 3 or more years of high school coursework and 3 years of attendance in California elementary schools, California secondary schools, or a combination of California elementary schools and secondary schools.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I attended or attained credits at a combination of California high school, California adult school, and California Community College for the equivalent of 3 years or more.*</p>	<p>Column B</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I have graduated or will graduate (before the first term of enrollment at the college/university) with a California high school diploma or the equivalent (i.e., California-issued GED, TASC, HISET or CISPSE).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I completed or will complete (before the first term of enrollment at the college/university) an associate degree from a California Community College.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I completed or will complete (before the first term of enrollment at the college/university) the minimum requirements at a California Community College for transfer to a California State University (CSU) or University of California (UC).</p>
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*A year's equivalence at a California Community College is either a minimum of 24 semester units or 36 quarter units. Only 2 years of full-time attendance in credit courses at the California Community Colleges will count toward the 3 or more years of attendance. Full-time attendance at a California adult school is a minimum of 420 hours of attendance for each school year.

Please list the schools you attended that would satisfy the requirements under Column A above:

School	City/State	Dates		# of Credits or Hours
		From-Month/Year	To-Month/Year	

Documentation of applicable school attendance and high school graduation (or its equivalent) is required by the University of California, The California State University and some California Community Colleges. Follow campus instructions.

AFFIDAVIT:
I hereby declare that, if I am without a lawful immigration status, I have filed an application to legalize my immigration status or will file an application as soon as I am eligible to do so.

DECLARATION OF TRUE AND ACCURATE INFORMATION:
I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate. I understand that this information will be used to determine my eligibility for the nonresident tuition exemption for eligible California high school graduates. I further understand that if any of the above information is untrue, I will be liable for payment of all nonresident charges from which I was exempted and may be subject to disciplinary action by the College or University.

Print Full Name (as it appears on your campus/student records) _____ Campus/Student Identification Number _____

Print Full Mailing Address (Number, Street, City, State, Zip Code) _____ Email Address/Phone Number (Optional) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Clarifications before moving forward...

Teaching Assistant-ships, Graduate Student Research-ships, & Instructor of Record appointments **require** work authorization—these are opportunities only open to DACA or TPS undocumented students with Employment Authorization Documents.

AB-540 students or non-AB-540 without work authorization **cannot** take on TA, GSR's, or Instructor of Record Appointments.

Not all is lost! Outreach Tips:

- Schools might make assumptions about all undocumented students
 - Not all undocu-students are the same (i.e., TPS, DACA, AB-540)
- Although draining, embarrassing, or overwhelming—advocacy is important!
- You can always ask more questions
- Make your inquiry confidential or ask someone at your resource center to investigate on behalf of a student.

Ask the right questions

- Can we open this opportunity to undocumented students?
- Is there an explicitly detailed eligibility criteria for this opportunity?
 - What does the language say?
- Is this opportunity supported by Federal or State funds?
 - State funds include more AB-540 than DACA student beneficiaries
- Is this internship/fellowship/scholarship linked to undocu-friendly Donor Funds?
- Can you seek out alternative sources of funding for this position?

What's the difference?

Scholarship

- Study funds for students
- Awarded for financial need; grades; community service; major; city of residence

Fellowship

- Funds for students or non-students
- Professional or career development
- To study a specific field; research on an issue; development of an organization; training for fellow's growth
- Might require EAD

Grant

- Financial aid that does not require repayment
- Covers education-related expenses (tuition, fees, books, supplies, room & board)

Loan

- Borrowed funds
- Require repayment
- May incur interests
- Used for education-related expenses

Scholarships

- Private scholarships are available regardless of immigration status
- Reach out to the schools FA office and inquire about their availability, selection process, and citizenship requirements
- Admission and scholarship are two separate matters

Reliable Scholarship List

- MALDEF is the nation's leading Latino legal civil rights organization
- **Not solely open to Latinx folks, everyone is eligible to apply!**
- <https://www.maldef.org/resources/scholarship-resource-guide/>



SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCE GUIDE
FOR SUPPORT IN THE 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR
LAST UPDATED: FEBRUARY 25, 2021

PRINT PDF 

DOWNLOAD PDF 

2021 Graduate Scholarship List

- Immigrants Rising is the leading organization in CA providing higher education and entrepreneurship resources to the undocumented community
- [Scholarship list link](#)

**IMMIGRANTS
RISING**
TRANSFORMING LIVES THROUGH EDUCATION

**2021 GRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIPS**

2021 Graduate Fellowship List



**2021 GRADUATE
FELLOWSHIPS THAT DON'T
REQUIRE PROOF OF U.S.
CITIZENSHIP OR LEGAL
PERMANENT RESIDENCY**

- <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/graduate-fellowships/>

San Francisco State University Graduate Equity Fellowship



- **Purpose:** to increase SFSU diversity by encouraging students with educationally or economically disadvantaged backgrounds and outstanding academic records to pursue and complete master's and doctoral degrees
- \$3,500 for MA students; \$5,000 Ph.D.
- Complete the California Dream Act Application
- AB-540 eligible
- <https://grad.sfsu.edu/content/graduate-equity-fellowship>

CREATING FELLOWSHIPS PROGRAM

Guide for Educational Institutions



- Defines “inclusive fellowships”
- Provides step-by-step guidelines to creating institutional fellowships, application process, & agreements
- Fellowship example provided
- <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/creating-fellowship-programs-for-educational-institutions/>

Introduction: New American University is offering the Success Fellowship, a fellowship for Academic Year 2019-2020 that provides hands-on/experiential learning, professional development, and networking for students from diverse backgrounds. The fellowship includes a yearly stipend of \$6,750.

Application Deadline: June 28, 2019

Stipend Amount: Stipend of \$6,750 for Academic Year 2019-2020 (\$2,250 per quarter). This stipend is contingent upon the successful completion of the fellowship program.

Application Submission Process: Students must complete the application form and email it, along with a resume and a one-page cover letter explaining their interest, to Ms. Jane Doe, the Fellowship Director of New American University, at janedoe@newamericanuniversity.edu.

Eligibility: Students must: (1) have demonstrated interest in their field of study/research; (2) be in good academic standing; and (3) come from a diverse background (e.g. race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, immigration status, national origin, etc.)

Fellowship Description: Success Fellows will:

- Participate in a hands-on/experiential learning project in their field of study/research (10 to 15 hours per week)
- Submit bi-monthly reflections on their learning project
- Be matched with a faculty/staff mentor in their field of study/research who will review bi-monthly reflections and provide ongoing feedback on learning project
- Participate in monthly leadership and professional development training seminars
- Be part of cohort of other fellows

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Jane Doe, the Fellowship Director of New American University, at janedoe@newamericanuniversity.edu

UCLA Graduate Division Fellowship for Undocumented AB-540 Graduate Students

- Master's and Doctoral student benefits: stipend, tuition, fees, and supplemental tuition *if applicable*
- Preference given to AB-540, non-DACA applicants
- More information:
- <https://grad.ucla.edu/asis/stusup/ucopab540app.pdf>

GRADUATE DIVISION FELLOWSHIP FOR UCLA UNDOCUMENTED AB540 GRADUATE STUDENTS

The UCLA Graduate Division offers funding for UCLA graduate students with undocumented AB540 status. The current funding period is July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020.

Deadline	August 21, 2019 , and on a rolling basis throughout fiscal year 2019–20 and as funding is available.
Amount	<i>Doctoral students:</i> Partial funding available for stipend and/or standard tuition and fees. If your degree program has professional degree supplemental tuition, this funding will not cover that expense <i>Master's students:</i> Partial funding available for stipend and/or standard tuition and fees. If your degree program has professional degree supplemental tuition, this funding will not cover that expense.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Incoming or current UCLA master's or doctoral student (<i>in-absentia</i> status okay)● Continuous enrollment/registration in minimum of 8 units while funded● Continuous undocumented AB540 status during period(s) of funding (preference will be given to non-DACA [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival] students)● Minimum cumulative GPA: 3.0 (other students are encouraged to apply once this minimum is met)● Students funded during the summer must have been continuously registered/enrolled during the previous Spring term and must be continuously registered/enrolled during the following Fall term. Otherwise, their summer funding will be cancelled, and it will have to be repaid.
Application Procedure	Submit to uclafellowship@grad.ucla.edu the following documents as a single PDF document (except the letter of recommendation) in the order listed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The completed and signed application and● A personal statement of your goals, coursework completed and research activities (two pages, double spaced, no less than 11 pt font and 1" margins)● One letter of recommendation, signed and on office letterhead, that addresses your academic qualifications, community-service activities, and/or other relevant information (emailed to address above or delivered to 1228 Murphy Hall)● Unofficial UCLA graduate transcript if applicable (MyUCLA transcript okay; no Degree Progress Reports)● Unofficial graduate/undergraduate/community college transcript(s)● A resume or curriculum vitae

CSU Grants & Loans

- [CSU in-depth website information](#)
- State University Grant (SUG)
 - \$6,348 for Teaching Credential
 - \$6,738 for Graduate Students
- **CA Dream Loan**
 - Subsidized loan program; undergraduate, credential & Master's students
 - CADAA & AB-540 affidavit required
 - Borrowed \$ with interest—Federal Direct Subsidized loans, changes annually
 - No interest while at school, periods of approved deferment, or 6-month grace period



Other Loans

- Undocumented students cannot receive Federal Loans or Pell Grants
- However, they are eligible for Institutional or Private Loans using a taxpayer identification number (or ITIN)
- DACA students are eligible for Sallie Mae and Discover loans with US Citizen cosigner



New! Undocu Grad School Guide!

- New York State Leadership Council
- [Downloadable link](#)
- 104-pg. Resource
- Covers CA, NY, NJ, & WA

CHAPTER 1: Preparing for Graduate School

- A. Deciding to Apply – Things to Consider
- B. Paying for Graduate School
- C. Preparing for and Taking Standardized Tests
- D. Undocu-Friendly Schools Outside of New York State

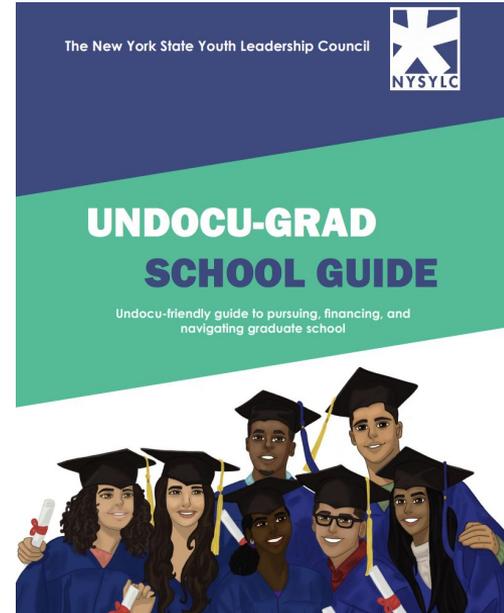
CHAPTER 2: Attending Graduate School

- A. Working During Graduate School
- B. Graduate School-Specific Requirements

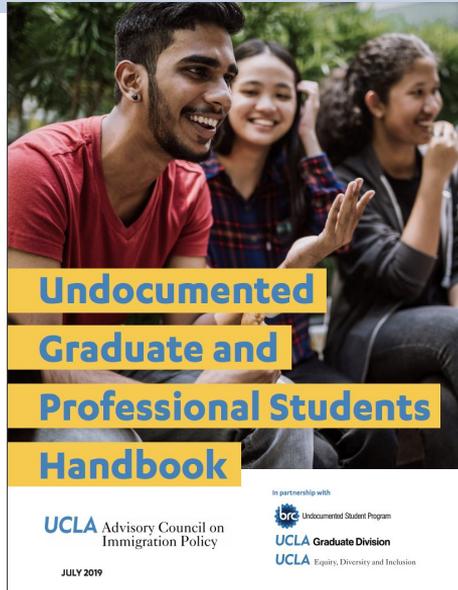
CHAPTER 3: Using Your Degree After Graduate School

- A. Professional Licenses
- B. Working After Graduate School

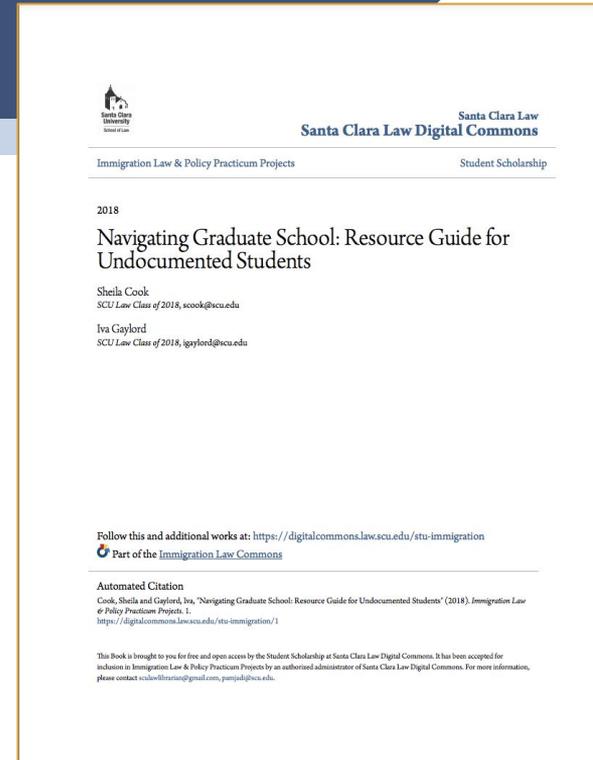
CHAPTER 4: Helpful Tips and Considerations



Resourceful handbooks and guides



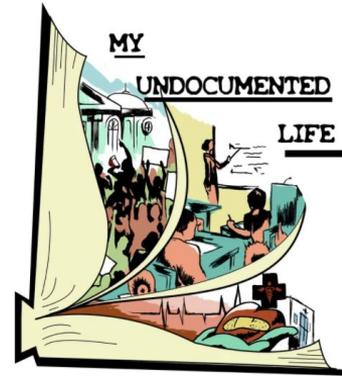
https://www.presidentsimmigrationalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/UCLA_Undocumented_handbook_WEB_Oct2019.pdf



<https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Navigating-Graduate-School-Resource-Guide-for-Undocumented-Students-1.pdf>

Resources

- <http://www.phdreamers.org/>
- <http://mydocumentedlife.org/>



Thank you for attending!

Questions or comments, please email:

juanruiz@nepantlaphilosophy.com

Visit my Drop-in Office Hours, more info:

bit.ly/UndocuGrad22